

REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 14 February 2007 (Paper No. 20070206) has been carefully considered.

As stated in paragraph 4 of the Office action Summary, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11-17 and 19-26 are pending in the application. Paragraph 6 of the Office action Summary states that all of the latter pending claims are rejected.

However, paragraph 3 of the Office action states that claims 1 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, while paragraph 4 of the Office action states that claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11 and 17-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, no statutory basis for rejection of pending claims 12-16 is stated, and canceled claim 18 is said to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Clarification as to the status of claims 12-16 is respectfully requested.

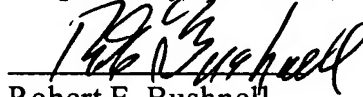
In addition, a review of the detailed reasons for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, as stated in paragraph 4 of the Office action, fails to reveal detailed reasons for the rejection of claims 2, 7, 14, 19, 21 and 23-25. That is, the recitations of these claims are not addressed in paragraph 4 of the Office action. Therefore, clarification as to the reasons for rejection of these claims is also respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the above-requested clarification be

provided so that Applicants can prepare a proper and complete response. In addition, it is respectfully requested that the three-month period for response be restarted as of the date of mailing of the clarifying communication so as to provide Applicants with sufficient time in which to respond to the rejections.

No fee is incurred by this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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